§ 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Amendments

In the Claims:

Please substitute the following claims for pending claims 37 and 38:

37.   (Amended) The method of claim 1, further including the step of performing multiple reads of the tags by the network tag reader to avoid time slot contention, wherein the tag identification number includes a plurality of bits, wherein a tag responds to the network tag reader with a first plurality of the plurality of bits during a first read and a second plurality of the plurality of bits during a second read.

38.   (Amended) The system of claim 19, wherein the network tag reader performs multiple reads of the tags to avoid time slot contention, wherein the tag identification number includes a plurality of bits, wherein a tag responds to the network tag reader with a first plurality of the plurality of bits during a first read and a second plurality of the plurality of bits during a second read.